

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A system for routing a document to a desired location comprising:

means for extracting data from ~~a~~the document to be routed, the document being contained on a physical or electronic media;
and

means for routing the extracted data and the document to ~~at least one of a plurality of locations~~the desired location depending on the extracted data, the extracted data comprising at least one of a content of and a type of the document.

2. (currently amended) A system for routing a document to a desired location comprising:

means for extracting data from ~~a~~the document to be routed, the document being contained on a physical or electronic media;
and

means for comparing the extracted data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the extracted data complies therewith.

3. (currently amended) A system for routing a document to a desired location comprising:

means for receiving ~~a~~the document to be routed, the document being contained on a physical or electronic media;

means for scanning the document and producing an electronic file ~~representing comprising data representing a type of and a content of contained in the document~~;

means for validating the data in the electronic file;

means for comparing the validated data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the ~~extracted~~ validated data complies therewith; and

means for routing compliant data and the document to ~~one or more locations~~the desired location based upon the type and content thereof of the document.

4. (original) The system as set forth in claim 3, further comprising means for rejecting noncompliant data and sending a notification of the same to a predetermined address.

5. (original) The system as set forth in claim 3, further comprising means for converting the compliant data into a determined output file format.

6. (original) The system as set forth in claim 3, further comprising means for archiving the compliant data into a database.

7. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the document is obtained from an e-mail, a facsimile, or a file transferred by FTP a file transfer protocol.

8. (original) The system as set forth in claim 7, wherein in the case where the document is a facsimile, at least one dedicated inbound telephone number is provided therefor.

9. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the scanning means utilizes at least one of an Optical Character Recognition ~~OCR~~-technique, an Image-Character Recognition ~~ICR~~-technique, and an Optical Mark Recognition ~~OMR~~ technique.

10. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the output file format is one of American Standard Code for Information Interchange ~~ASCII~~-text, American National Standards Institute ~~ANSI~~-X.12, Electronic Data Interchange For Administration Commerce And Transport ~~EDIFACT~~, eXtensible Markup Language ~~XML~~, EANCOM, TRADACOMS, Organisation for Data Exchange by Tele Transmission in Europe ~~ODETTE~~, and a customer-specified format.

11. (original) The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein the archiving means stores and indexes the data in the database so that the data may be searched for and retrieved.

12. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the routing means utilizes a message transport

protocol selected from the list consisting of HTTPhypertext transfer protocol, SMTPsimple mail transfer protocol, and FTPfile transfer protocol, or secured variants thereof.

13. (original) The system as set forth in claim 3, further comprising means for generating billing records.

14. (original) The system as set forth in claim 6, further comprising means for querying the archive database.

15. (currently amended) A system for processing a ~~transaction~~document through a plurality of ~~stages~~events, said system comprising:

means for determining status information relating to the ~~transaction~~processing of the document at one or more of said ~~stages~~events; and

means for reporting the ~~transaction~~status information periodically.

16. (original) The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein the information includes transaction status, further comprising means for recovering from a transaction having a status identified as failed.

17. (original) The system as set forth in claim 16, wherein said recovery means corrects the failed transaction, if feasible, and re-injects the corrected transaction into the transaction process.

18. (original) The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein such information includes one of at least origin, destination, receipt, status, delivery, page count, identification, attempt, and stage.

19. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said ~~stages~~events include one of at least document receipt, data extraction, data verification, data transformation, data delivery, and data archiving.

20. (currently amended) A method for routing a document to a desired location comprising the steps of:

extracting data from ~~a~~ the document to be routed, the document being contained on a physical or electronic media; and
routing the extracted data and the document to ~~at least one of a plurality of locations~~ the desired location depending on the extracted data, the extracted data including at least one of a content of and a type of the document.

21. (currently amended) A method for routing a document to a desired location comprising the steps of:

extracting data from ~~a~~ the document to be routed, the document being contained on a physical or electronic media; and
comparing the extracted data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the extracted data complies therewith.

22. (currently amended) A method for routing a document to a desired location comprising the steps of:

receiving ~~a~~ the document to be routed, the document being contained on a physical or electronic media;

scanning the document and producing an electronic file representing including data representing a type of and a content of contained in the document;

validating the data in the electronic file;

comparing the validated data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine whether the ~~extracted~~ validated data complies therewith; and

routing compliant data and the document to ~~one or more locations~~ the desired location based upon the type and content thereof of the document.

23. (currently amended) ~~A method~~ An apparatus comprising a processor for processing a transaction document through a plurality of stages ~~events, said method comprising that when executed, the processor performs~~ the steps of:

determining status information relating to the ~~transaction~~
processing of the document at one or more of said ~~stages~~events;
and

reporting the ~~transaction~~status information periodically.

24. (new) A system for routing a document comprising:
at least one processor operable to execute instructions,;
and

instructions executable by the at least one processor, the
instructions including extracting data from a document,
determining, from the extracted data, a desired location for
document based on the content contained in the extracted data
and the type of document, and routing the extracted data to the
desired location.

25. (new) A computer for routing a document to a
desired location comprising:

a memory for storing one or more predetermined business
rules; and

a processor operable to extract data from the document to
be routed and to compare the extracted data to the one or more
predetermined business rules stored in the memory to determine
whether the extracted data complies therewith.

26. (new) A method of routing a document to a desired
location comprising:

receiving the document to be routed, the document
containing content and being one of plurality of types;

scanning the document to extract data from the document,
the extracted data representing the content of the document and
the document's type;

validating the extracted data by comparing the extracted
data to one or more predetermined business rules to determine
whether the extracted data complies with the business one or
more business rule; and

routing the extracted data and the document to the desired location based upon the document's type, the document's content, and whether the document is validated.

27. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the document is received in a physical or electronic media.

28. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the scanner utilizes at least one of an Optical Character Recognition technique, an Image-Character Recognition technique, and an Optical Mark Recognition technique.

29. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the type of document is one of the following group of types: tagged image file format, portable document format or a facsimile image.

30. (new) The method of claim 26, further comprising converting the extracted data into one file format if the extracted data is to be used with one type of program or another file format if the extracted data is to be used with another type of program.

31. (new) The system of claim 26, wherein the one or more business rules include algorithms for checking whether the extracted data is complete.

32. (new) The system of claim 26, wherein the one or more business rules include algorithms for checking whether the extracted data is within a range specified by a user.

33. (new) The system of claim 26, wherein the one or more business rules include algorithms for checking whether the extracted data is in a format specified by a user.